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EX(O)



Attorney Docket No. PB/5-31481A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

GROUP ART UNIT: 1638

LEVIN et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/896,186

EXAMINER: MEHTA, Ashwin D.

FILED: June 29, 2001

CONFIRMATION NO: 9567

TITLE: Method of Controlling Gene Expression and Gene Silencing

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

The Office Action of January 21, 2003 has a shortened statutory time set to expire on April 21, 2003. A one-month extension to May 21, 2003 is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a).

Please charge Applicant's credit card in the amount of \$110.00 for payment of the extension fee. Enclosed is a Credit Card Payment Form for fee purposes. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1744.

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Respectfully submitted,

Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc.
Patent Department
3054 Cornwallis Road
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Date: May 21, 2003

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